

'Get Organized: De-Clutter Your Way to Peace of Mind'

Main Line Media NewsMain

Line Media News (mainlinemedianews.com)

Main Line Suburban Life > Life

Wednesday, January 6, 2010

By Blair Meadowcroft

The entrance of the New Year, for many, can mean a time of resolutions. Whether geared towards bettering yourself, your lifestyle or your relationships, making resolutions can get the New Year started in the right direction.

For Darla DeMorrow, professional organizer and owner of HeartWork Organizing in Wayne, her resolution is to help those in the area become more organized. A member of the National Association of Professional Organizers, Interior Redesign Industry Specialists and the Society of Decorating Professionals, DeMorrow helps clients improve their use of space and time.

"I've worked on clearing out specific areas, organizing paperwork, making decisions about items in someone's closet and installing new closet systems to stay more organized," said DeMorrow. "I can help organize any area of a home from the garage, basement and attic to the kitchen. Additionally I have been asked to work on improving operations or specific systems in order to make the best use of time."

After 12 years in the corporate world as a project manager, DeMorrow opened her business five years ago and continues to love what she does.

"I'm now doing project management on the individual level," DeMorrow said. "I am making a difference in the lives of the people I am helping."

Along with individual client projects, DeMorrow often does speaking engagements in the community. The next local event will be held Tuesday, Jan. 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Tredyffrin Public Library, 582 Upper Gulph Road in Strafford. Her presentation is entitled "Get Organized: De-Clutter Your Way to Peace of Mind."

"This is a fast one-hour presentation that I've done before that has been very popular," said DeMorrow. "It is geared towards the homeowner and it is interactive and visual. I want people to leave with at least one skill that they can take home and right away use it to do something different in their own space and feel different because of it."

According to Gretchen Chamberlin, assistant director at the Tredyffrin Public Library, organizing workshops in the past have been very popular, and this one should be no different.

"This type of program is useful any time, but January is Get Organized Month, and with the New Year starting, this is a great time to build on people's motivation to start off the New Year right," said Chamberlin. "We've had a

number of signups so far and are optimistic that we will have a good turnout. Attendees will go away with a concrete plan and specific steps to use for their own needs.”

According to DeMorrow, her presentation is similar to an HGTV episode with many before and after photographs of projects she’s done. Her hope is the photos will show those in the audience how to recreate in their homes the projects she has completed.

“Additionally if anyone wants to bring in photographs of their space at home or work that needs organizing, I’d be happy to stay after the presentation and discuss with them suggestions of what they could do,” said DeMorrow.

In an effort to start the New Year right, DeMorrow’s presentation will teach the skills and tips on de-cluttering and getting organized in many spaces, and will help guests create their own Personal Organizing Action Plan.

“Darla will be back in the second half of the year to present a program focused on decorating,” said Chamberlin. “So after you have gotten organized you can learn more about how to create a beautiful space.”

For more information or to sign up for this event at Tredyffrin Public Library, e-mail Gretchen Chamberlin at gchamberlin@ccls.org or call the library at 610-688-7092. For more information on DeMorrow and her company, HeartWork Organizing, visit www.heartworkorg.com.

10 Ways to Get Organized in 2010

1. Have a goal. Be specific (I want to clear my desktop) rather than vague (I want my office to look nicer).
2. Have a plan. Choose one project at a time and work on that project until it is done. Work from right to left, A to Z, top to bottom, or some other reasonable approach so you can see results as you go.
3. Have a way to deal with distractions. Let voice mail take your calls, farm out the kids, eat before you start, whatever it takes to allow you to get down to business.
4. Have a cheerleader. Recruit a good friend, a willing relative or a certified professional organizer® to help you move through your project. They don’t have to work with you; they just have to keep you moving and focused.
5. Have a sense of humor. Laugh at the fashions and bloopers from the past, but separate plain old history from precious memories and save only what makes you smile.
6. Have an eye for design. Once you can see your stuff, you can showcase it. Chose attractive, updated designs to bring your memories and useful stuff in to

the forefront.

7. Have a goal of going green. Re-use containers, labeling materials and display items as much as possible. And after an organizing project, resolve to reduce the amount of stuff that you allow to come into your life. Use online services and thrift stores to both give and take.

8. Have a budget. To really make a change, you may need to fix, add to, update or improve the function of your stuff. Determine in advance what you can spend.

9. Have a communication plan. If you share your space or stuff, make sure others know that you are getting organized and what they can do to help you.

10. Have a reward in mind. A beautiful, organized closet may make you smile each time you enter. Or choose a fun reward, such as a coffee date with a friend. Just don't reward yourself by shopping for more clutter.

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